Human rights ideals are at the pinnacle of contemporary social work practice and international political discourse. Yet in recent years, with the heightened threat of terrorism, we have begun to witness an erosion of many traditional civil liberties.

Set against this backdrop, the revised edition of Human Rights and Social Work moves beyond the limitations of conventional legal frameworks. With customary clarity and ease of style, Jim Ife challenges the notion of the ‘three generations of human rights’, teasing out the conceptual problems of this approach and demonstrating how the three generations actually overlap at an intrinsic level.

Essential reading for scholars, students and practitioners alike, this book shows how an implicit understanding of human rights principles can provide a foundation for practice that is central to social work, community development and the broader human services.
Human Rights and Social Work
Towards Rights-Based Practice

Revised Edition

Jim Ife
Curtin University of Technology
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For the author of a book to claim that the ideas it contains are all his/her own is both false and arrogant. Ideas are shared, developed and reconstructed through a process of continuous dialogue, reading and collaborative praxis, and any claim to individual ‘ownership’ of such ideas in the form of ‘intellectual property’ is a nonsense. Simply writing ideas in a book, with its corresponding claim to ownership and authority, is to privilege the author over others who have had a major influence in the creative endeavour, and is, for this author at least, a source of some discomfort. Many people have contributed, often unknowingly, to the ideas in this book, and it would be impossible to acknowledge, or even to remember, them all. I owe a great deal to many encounters with students, colleagues and friends, in several different universities and in the wider community.

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